

Slide 1 – Crimespotting/Intro

-ask group what purpose/utility of the site was again?

Slide 2 – Indigenous Territory/Nietschmann quote

- Bernard Nietschmann studied native tribes (particularly in Nicaragua) and urged them to seize control of their natural resources
- essentially he studied how these indigenous people were steamrolled by empire
- also a noted ecologist who helped prevent extinction of a specific type of sea turtle

Is there validity to this quote?

Are guns more powerful than maps?

What are some other examples of maps being used as instruments of control?

Slide 3 – Cartography is not what cartographers tell us it is

What is being suggested here?

“For the critical mapper, the object is not to over-turn this way of knowing (as some scientists often believe) but to ask how it has come to be so powerful (perhaps as a historical investigation) and to ask what the implications are of this knowledge and whether or not alternative ways of knowing are possible” – 40

-later states “knowledge is never unpoliticized” (you cannot present information without tethering it to an ideology of some sort)

Google Earth signalled the beginning of the end! (but let's not forget mapquest and the like)

“Cartography's latest “technological transition” is not only a technological question but a mixture of “open source” collaborative tools, mobile mapping applications and the geospatial web”

-we are well beyond the ‘digitization’ of cartography, now seeing the predominant methodology of the last century overturned (this has already happened)

-yet mapping continues to acknowledge experts – ‘power users’ need to qualify to become GIS experts through licensing or certification. Same standards apply to surveying (regulated by Management Association of Private Photogrammetric Surveyors group [MAPPS])

“Critical mapping operates from the ground up in a diffuse manner without top-down control and doesn't need the approval of experts in order to flourish. It is a movement that is ongoing whether or not the academic discipline of cartography is involved. It is in this sense that cartography is being freed from the confines of the academy and opened up to the people” – 41

Slide 4 – Grassroots mapping kit

- ...and this project is a perfect example of mapping 'being freed from the confines of the academy'
- this is the 'kit' for one of the projects produced by Grassroots Mapping – an organization that has emerged out of the Legatum Center and Center for Future Civic Media at MIT.
- Group received a \$500,000 Knight News grant this year “t to create a toolkit and online community for citizen-based, grassroots data gathering and research”

Slide 5 – Jerusalem Protest

- example of project in action. Illustrating a July 15 march for Palestinian Independence in Jerusalem (inspired by Natalie Jeremjenko's mapping of RNC protests in NYC in 2004).
- this event might be invisible in Israeli media – can provide

Slide 6 – Chandeleur Islands

- here is earlier, 2010 deployment of the project in the Gulf Coast after the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster that resulted in a massive oil spill
- more savvy media hawks will remember that BP exerted considerable influence over the media and coverage of this disaster and very few journalists were actually reporting on the extent of the spill early on
- The DIY balloon mapping project saw its first major deployment in the coast – collecting/assessing 'eyewitness data' of the spill

Show first two links

“With the BP oil spill Grassroots Mapping project as a pilot, Public Laboratory has already begun a series of new collaborations focused on locally produced environmental and civic data. Over the next three years, seven local chapters of Public Laboratory will be created around the United States to support community action with new low-cost, accessible tools and technologies. Ranging from infrared vegetation monitoring to thermal photography for home insulation, these projects will be developed in collaboration with local community and advocacy groups to address specific local issues. Drawing from the participatory and Do-It-Yourself techniques which have generated hundreds of gigabytes of citizen-produced environmental map data in the Gulf of Mexico, the Public Lab plans to tackle new problems in new places, while developing a long-term approach to jump-starting and sustaining such efforts on a broader scale.”

Show the Guide

- not so much a visualization, but a workflow

show second two links

Slide 7&8 – Million Dollar Blocks

- Brilliant 2006 project produced by GSAPP's SIDL (Laura Kurgan)
- socioeconomic barometer – examining incarceration costs by block in NYC.
- traditionally we gauge neighbourhoods by mean or median income, here we understand how underserved communities COST the broader population.

Advance to second slide

“The United States currently has more than 2 million people locked up in jails and prisons. A disproportionate number of them come from a very few neighborhoods in the country's biggest cities. In many places the concentration is so dense that states are spending in excess of a million dollars a year to incarcerate the residents of single city blocks. When these people are released and reenter their communities, roughly forty percent do not stay more than three years before they are reincarcerated.

Using rarely accessible data from the criminal justice system, the Spatial Information Design Lab and the Justice Mapping Center have created maps of these “million dollar blocks” and of the city-prison-city-prison migration flow for five of the nation's cities. The maps suggest that the criminal justice system has become the predominant government institution in these communities and that public investment in this system has resulted in significant costs to other elements of our civic infrastructure — education, housing, health, and family. Prisons and jails form the distant exostructure of many American cities today.

The project continues to present ongoing work on criminal justice statistics to make visible the geography of incarceration and return in New York, Phoenix, New Orleans, and Wichita, prompting new ways of understanding the spatial dimension of an area of public policy with profound implications for American cities.”

How is this project different than other mapping projects we've looked at?
How is this project polemical?

Slide 9 – Crampton Diagram

- not to beat a dead horse here, but Crampton astutely points out mapping is variable, contingent, loaded, etc.
- really fascinating discussion on pg. 42

“in a given group, some images were almost always seen as maps, some were almost always not seen as maps, and some images were sometimes seen as maps; the degree to which people agreed that an image was a map increased with age”

- maps are culturally learned knowledge – and so are how we define them
- these definitions are ‘works in progress’ and shift over time

Slide 10 – Ptolemy World Map (150AD)

- Remember earlier in the semester we looked at Ptolemy's 'world' map
- first map to use longitude and latitude – yet only covered the Mediterranean & Indian Ocean
- where was the rest of the world here?
- maps can only convey what Donald Rumsfeld would describe as known knowns.

Slide 11 – Juan de la Cosa's Map

-de la Cosa Spanish cartographer (lived 1460-1509) owner/captain of the Santa Maria

"The purpose of the map is clearly signposted as an instrument of European empire. National flags – both Spanish and English – are planted to claim ownership of the new territories. The map also proclaims a crusade. A compass rose astride the equator portrays the Holy Family. The figure of St. Christopher is said to be an allusion to Columbus carrying the Christ child on his shoulders. As "Christoferens," he is the bearer of Christianity across the ocean to the pagan shores of the New World". 48

Slide 12 – Relative Size of Empires

- discuss "How to Lie with Maps"

Slide 13 – Harry Beck's Tube Map

Watch video